

**BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL
SPECIAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2009**

A special meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held on Thursday, June 25, 2009, in the Oliver Administration Building, 151 State Street in Bristol, RI. The Chairperson, Paul Silva, called the meeting to order at approximately 6:37 PM.

Present: Paul Silva, Chair, Paul E. Brule, Vice-Chair, William M. O'Dell, Treasurer, Marjorie J. McBride, Secretary, Denise R. Arsenault, John C. Bento, Diana B. Campbell, Karen A. Lynch and John P. Saviano; and Andrew D. Henneous, Esq., District Solicitor

Guests: Council 94 Leadership--James Santos, Donna Cruz, James Russo, David Sousa, Lorna Reynolds and Patricia Raposa

Absent: none

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation #S 2009-38: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and supported by the Personnel/ Contract Negotiation Subcommittee, approve the Council 94 contract as proposed.

MOTION: Mr. Saviano motioned to approve. Mrs. Arsenault seconded. Mr. Silva had distributed two sets of figures showing the cost to the District to provide salary raises of 2.25%, 2.50% and 2.50% with benefits co-pays of 11%, 12% and 13%. One set shows the numbers with the inclusion of step increases and the other without step increases. Mr. Silva believes the figures without the steps is more true because step increases will occur regardless of salary increases. Mr. O'Dell asked if this was Mrs. Correia's interpretation as well. Attorney Henneous said it hinges on how you want to define the fiscal impact—strictly as negotiated or factored in with step increases. Mr. Silva further explained that Mrs. Correia assumed a 5% increase in health care costs each year and the same people staying for three years.

Mrs. Campbell asked the corresponding net percentage increase. It is 1.87, 1.47, 1.45 with the steps.

Comments by the Committee:

Mr. Brule – Stating he is the only “blue collar worker” in the group, feels \$16 - \$22.50 per hours is a good pay; the Committee asked for 15 to 20% co-pay and this proposal is not even close; he pays \$240 per week for his own health insurance which is an inferior plan; some Council 94 people do not work full time and take these jobs for the sake of the health benefits; he feels that given the economy and the

number of bankruptcies in these towns, at least 15% for co-pays is not a lot to ask; we all pay the same amount for gas and for groceries; he will vote no.

Mrs. Campbell – Will vote no, not because she does not appreciate the work these people do; in fact one of her priorities was to assure they net an increase, but across the State the push is to get unions to contribute more to benefits and this proposal does not go far enough.

Mrs. McBride – Agrees with Mr. Brule's and Mrs. Campbell's comments and will vote no because the biggest exposure for a district is the unknown costs for health care. It is important that everyone share in that exposure; increasing the percentage of health and dental care costs by a total of 3% over three years does not get that done; it is not realistic nor is it in line with what the rest of the population contributes.

Mrs. Arsenault – Thanked the Subcommittee for their work on behalf of the School Committee and their work with Dr. Mara and Mrs. Correia; their charge is to do their very best to come across with what is fair and affordable for the District; she will vote yes.

Mr. O'Dell – Roberts Rules of Order says one member should not put up with insults from another; one member of this Committee claims he is the only blue collar worker on the Committee; Mr. O'Dell resents the fact that he is not considered a blue collar worker because of the

fact he is a Federal employee; he asked for an apology.

Mr. Brule said he would not give Mr. O'Dell an apology.

Mr. Bento -- Believes we should increase the co-pays to keep in line with the rest of the State; however, considering the net increases, he also fully supported the Subcommittee and will vote yes; he is also interested in increase co-pays in the future.

On a show of hands, Mrs. Lynch, Mrs. Arsenault, Mr. Saviano, Mr. Bento and Mr. O'Dell voted yes, and Mrs. McBride, Mrs. Campbell and Mr. Brule voted no. Mr. Silva abstained from voting, although allowed, because a family member is a member of this Union. The motion passes.

The members of Council 94 left the meeting at 6:52 PM.

TEACHER TERMINATION ARBITRATION

MOTION: Mr. Saviano motioned to appeal the recent arbitration ruling on a teacher. Mrs. Lynch seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 9 to 0.

ADJOURNMENT – 7:15 PM

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Brule motioned to

adjourn the meeting at 7:15 PM; Mrs. Campbell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie J. McBride, Secretary

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